
System of Early Intervention

Natural Environments

...where children spend their time

Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services

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The Law Says...

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Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act says that to the maximum extent appropriate, early intervention services must be provided in natural environments, including home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate. Services can only be provided in a setting other than a natural environment when early intervention cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment.

[SEC. 632 (4) (G) and SEC. 635 (a) (16) (B)]

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are natural environments important?

- ♦ It is a child's nature to learn throughout the day in whatever activity or place they are in.
- ♦ Segregation of children with disabilities often leads to further isolation.
- ♦ Natural environments provide support to families to help their children develop to their fullest potential.
- ♦ A common characteristic of some children who are experiencing delays and disabilities is difficulty in generalizing skills from one environment to another. Supporting intervention in the natural environment allows the child to respond to the natural cues of the environment and learn to use the skill across many similar, but not identical situations.

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Questions?

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